

REMARKS

Introduction

Claims 1 - 17 were originally pending in this application. Claims 1 and 3 have been amended and claim 2 has been cancelled in this response to the latest Office Action. Claims 15 – 17 have been allowed. Thus claims 1 and 3 - 17 remain in the application. No new matter has been added.

The Specification

The disclosure was objected to because of certain informalities found in Paragraphs 37 and 40. These paragraphs have been amended to include the serial numbers of the co-pending applications referenced therein. This information was not available at the time the present application was filed. In addition, the abstract was objected to for issues of format and length. The abstract has been amended with the Examiners comments in mind and so that it now includes less than 150 words.

Claim Rejections

35 U.S.C. §102 Anticipation

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,604,175 to Vos. A claim is said to be anticipated where each and every limitation of the claim can be found in a single reference. As explained in greater detail below, claim 1 has been amended such that each and every limitation of this claim cannot be found in the Vos '175 patent. Accordingly, applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

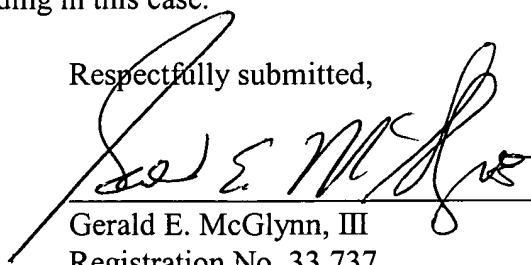
On the other hand, the Examiner indicated that claims 2-14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. With the Examiner's comments in mind, claim 1 has been amended to more particularly describe the invention and to include method steps formerly set forth in claim 2 (now cancelled). Applicants respectfully submit that the invention described in independent claim 1, as amended, is neither disclosed nor suggested by the Vos '175 patent.

Claims 3 - 14 are all ultimately dependent upon independent claim 1 and add further perfecting limitations. As such, the prior art reference does not suggest the subject invention. However, even if it did, it could only be applied through hindsight after restructuring the disclosure of the prior art in view of applicants' invention. A restructuring of the prior art in this way to derive applicants' invention would, in and of itself, be an invention.

Conclusion

In view of the above, applicant respectfully submits that the claims, as amended, clearly distinguish over the prior art and are therefore allowable. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully solicits the allowance of the claims pending in this case.

Respectfully submitted,



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